

REMARKS

Applicant submits that amended claims 23, 33 and 38 (as well as the remaining claims which depend therefrom) distinguish over the prior art cited in the office action and the other art of record since none of the art discloses a scraping device having a straight scraping edge portion which protrudes from said housing of the device so that an imaginary line drawn through the edge of said straight scraping edge portion extends beyond the surface of the housing. This imaginary line is identified as dashed line A in the attached drawing of Figure 6. In Lyons, it will be appreciated that an imaginary line drawn through the edge of the straight portion of the blade intersects or extends into the housing of the device.

In the Advisory Action mailed February 2, 2004, the Office indicated that the amendment introduced new matter that was not previously disclosed in the specification. However, Applicant submits that the amendment does not introduce new matter since the matter is disclosed on pages 9 and 10 of the specification where side 144 of blade 130 is referred to as the "protruded" scraping side 144 and described using words such as "extends" and "protruding". (See page 9, line 22 to page 10, line 5). Protruded side 144 is also shown in most if not all of the drawings (See attached Figure 6) and as shown always protrudes from said housing of the device so that an imaginary line drawn through the edge of said straight scraping edge portion extends beyond the surface of the housing. Finally, the advantage provided by protruding edge 144 is discussed on page 6 of the specification where it is stated that "With the edge protruding therefrom, a great advantage is obtained in that the edge can be used to scrape, while support for the gripping of the scratcher is also obtained." (Page 6, Lines 18-23).

In view thereof, Applicant submits that by amending the claims with the language

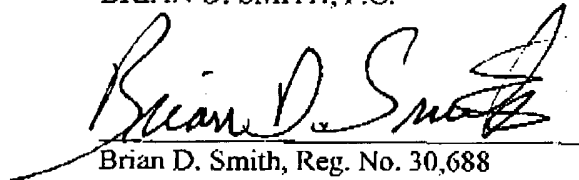
"straight scraping edge portion protrudes from said housing so that an imaginary line drawn through the edge of said straight scraping edge portion extends beyond said housing", Applicant is merely amending the claims to recite a feature of the invention already disclosed in the specification and simply reciting the feature in a manner which clearly distinguishes the feature over the cited prior art.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration are requested and allowance is solicited at an early date. The examiner's attention is also drawn to the fact that this Amendment is being submitted pursuant to a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and is timely in view of the also attached Petition for Extension of Time.

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN D. SMITH, P.C.

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Brian D. Smith, Reg. No. 30,688
Attorney for Applicant

BRIAN D. SMITH, P.C.
1125 Seventeenth Street, Suite 600
Denver, Colorado 80202
303-523-0900